

The Government's Colossal Campaign

To Americanize Our Aliens

Remarkable Educational System for Immigrants Recently Put Into Operation in 650 Cities by the Bureau of Naturalization—One Person Out of Every Six in the United States Is a Foreigner—Getting the Immigrant to School and Keeping Him There—Methods of Instruction—Certificates of Graduation—Government Makes Personal Appeal to Each Immigrant Who Has Declared His Intention of Becoming a Citizen—Night Schools—The Card System—Dealing With the Alien Woman—Letters From the Students.

THE first great educational convention ever held to prepare for immigrants a course of instruction in the principles of American citizenship will assemble in Washington next July. The convention has been called by the bureau of naturalization of the Department of Labor, and the division of immigrant education of the federal bureau of education has been invited to participate. The Washington convention will follow immediately upon the annual convention of the National Educational Association to be held in New York city.

Assembling at the capital will be those school superintendents and teachers, members of the National Education Association, who in 650 cities in the United States are using the remarkable educational system for immigrants recently put into operation by the bureau of naturalization.

In order that millions of its adopted children may become as sons and daughters of one blood, the United States government has entered upon a campaign of Americanization as unique as it is colossal. To take a vast heterogeneous and hitherto unassimilated population, imbue it with American ideals, fire it with American patriotism, and teach it how to live by American standards is the task in which federal authorities and public school teachers have joined hands.

When it is remembered that one person out of every six in America is a foreigner, or that one out of every three is either foreign born or the child of foreign parents, the need for an adequate machinery for the Americanization of our aliens becomes apparent.

The first step in the government's Americanization campaign has been to get the immigrant to school and keep him there. In the past, the individual effort of thought of preparing a course of study for the alien in the principles of American citizenship, the federal government itself, in January of the present year, placed its own specially prepared outline course in the hands of the public schools of the country. This outline course is distinctive in many respects.

It suggests original methods of teaching foreigners the English language and American history. It shows how the principles of American government should be taught, and how practical demonstrations may be given foreign students of governmental organization and purposes. It suggests the use, wherever possible, of the American newspaper in place of the graded reader, pointing out that the newspaper is cheap, is easily available to the immigrant, and is thoroughly American. And to every foreign man and woman who completes a course in citizenship the United States government will award a certificate of graduation.

One of the primary objects of the convention of educators to be held in Washington next July is a discussion and revision of the "Outline Course in Citizenship." After some months' experience in using the outline, the teachers of the country are asked by the naturalization bureau to come together for the purpose of offering suggestions and amendments so that the course of study may be made to answer as nearly as possible the needs of the alien who aspires to American citizenship.

The bureau of naturalization has recently inaugurated its educational work for adult immigrants, after two years of planning and preparation. By the bureau's system, thousands of alien men and women are every month brought within reach of the public schools. Once the immigrant is connected with the school every detail of his progress is followed by federal as well as school authorities. On cards

furnished to the city superintendents by the bureau of naturalization, there are recorded the name, address, nationality and occupation of the immigrant. There are blanks in which the teachers are to record, for later use by the naturalization authorities, such facts as the date of the immigrant's entrance at school; his total attendance for the year; to what extent he is literate upon entrance; what his previous education, if any, has been, and whether or not he speaks, reads or writes the English language. When it is remembered that in addition to such facts as these, the card contains information as to whether the alien is married or single, and, if married, the name and nationality of his wife, it will be seen to what extent this government is personally interested in the stranger within its gates.

By a certain provision of our naturalization laws the bureau of naturalization receives each month the names of twelve or more adult immigrants, with the address, nationality and occupation of each. This provision of the law requires that the clerk of the courts throughout the country exercise jurisdiction in naturalization matters shall forward to headquarters at Washington such information concerning each resident alien who declares his intention to become a citizen, and of each petitioner for naturalization, within thirty days after the declaration of the petition has been filed.

Immediately upon receipt of these names and addresses at the naturalization bureau each alien receives from the United States government a personal letter urging him to avail himself of those opportunities which will make him a more efficient citizen, job getter and money maker.

Here is the sort of letter which the commissioner of naturalization, Mr.



A JERSEY CITY, N.J. CLASS FOR ITALIANS

A CLASS IN ENGLISH AND CITIZENSHIP AT ST. LOUIS

CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS ON ELLIS ISLAND ROOF GARDEN

TYPICAL SWEDISH CHILDREN

AN IMMIGRANT TOM CEYLON

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